

Hi Doug,

On the day following the Eric Newman Part II early silver auction, I wanted to take the time to thank you for all you've done for the hobby over these years. In internet parlance, I've been a lurker, someone who follows a blog for some time without contributing. Truth be told, I've never even done business with you, despite calling you some years back regarding a branch mint coin. Back to the story, I read your recent blog regarding your experience with the Newman preview and was inspired to view it. Engineering a trip to NYC earlier this week, I had the pleasure of previewing the auction which you had described as "one of the most pleasurable coin-related experiences [you'd] had in years". Not being a collector of early silver, I've always been intrigued by its beauty and historical significance. Add the beautiful toning from the Wayte Raymond albums' sulfur to what was already a gorgeous assembly of high-grade coins and you were certainly right that this was an historic opportunity.

Like most collectors, I don't have unlimited resources to commit to coins. Since I have historically concentrated upon territorial and gold-rush period shipwreck coins, I've typically felt that a dollar spent on non-territorial, moves me away from my specialty. Frankly, after viewing the magnificent Newman collection, I felt like the proverbial fellow at the dance who keeps falling in love with the last girl he danced with (read "the last coin he viewed") as I went through box after box. After attending on-line and reviewing the results of last night's Signature auction, I could hear in my head many of the lessons you've written about over the years. To loosely paraphrase you, here are a few:

- 1) fresh material that's been off the market for years brings spirited bidding
- 2) with the really good coins, don't be surprised that today's price that seems a stretch will look like a bargain in retrospect
- 3) superior eye appeal can transcend traditional grading values and pricing
- 4) a good (in this case, great) collection is worth more than the sum of its parts
- 5) use of a knowledgeable, honest, good-hearted dealer (readers of your blog know you resemble that remark) can add tremendous value.

To make a long story short, I fell in love with many of the coins, and was prepared to buy a few based on pre-auction bid prices. I had done my due diligence as best I could by viewing comparables on the auction websites and reviewing population data. Note to self, many coins were so appealing there were few visible "comparables" to judge fair pricing. As the bidding developed, I quickly saw that factors 1) thru 4) above were at work, bringing prices multiples of what I had determined were already solid prices. Not having significant experience with early silver, nor the time to consult a knowledgeable dealer, I was on my own.

I passed on most lots I had identified as their prices went to levels way beyond my estimates, although they may very well look like bargains later. Truth be told, I bought

only one coin, solely because I thought it was cool on multiple factors. The coin is the 1817 over 3 bust half dollar in MS-64, Lot 33447. The factors:

- 1) a big, bold, well-struck coin with great Wayte Raymond toning and almost cameo-like eye appeal
- 2) a very visible error with the 7 looming over much of a 3; magnification not necessary to enjoy and much more prominent than the 1815/2 error which goes for big money
- 3) interesting vivid clash marks on both sides, very visible given the strike and toning
- 4) proof-like features so prominent that they were noted by Eric Newman and Walter Breen and the subject of considerable discussion
- 5) well-nestled in the condition census by grade, only 11 of 70 Heritage auction appearances were uncirculated, with few near gems, and frankly, none I liked more
- 6) provenance before Eric Newman was "Colonel" Green, son of Hetty Green, known as the witch of Wall Street; interesting history and connection to two great collections
- 7) I'm not sure if the Newman envelope that accompanies the coin reflects his acquisition or offer price, but he paid or valued it at \$100 many years ago, far more than many of the other coins in this auction. I know it's not scientific, but buying it for \$28,200 seems a bargain when many other coins annotated by Newman for much less than \$100 sold for a quarter million dollars or more.

It wasn't quite graded a gem and it doesn't have the CAC bean. It may not have the PCGS look. As a traditionally gold coin guy, I have trouble appreciating and viewing the somewhat muted toned "original" look much early silver exhibits; I like the flash. Perhaps I overpaid or knowledgeable folks could find fault, but it literally jumped out of the box during my preview. It turned me on for the above reasons and shall proudly sit in my cabinet to remind me of this historic sale for years to come!

Closing the loop, I wanted to thank you again for what you do for the hobby. Keep on dealing and writing. I've read and enjoyed all your branch mint books and I visit your website often to view your inventory and gain perspective. Your enthusiasm is contagious and your eye for the right look in a coin is superb. Don't ever think that because you don't get feedback on a particular piece you write or a sale from every interaction you have with a collector, you are not making an impact. It is folks like you (and Eric Newman, thru his generosity) that knowingly or not mentor, develop, and inspire the future collectors that keep our hobby vibrant. Developing future generations of collectors should be a goal of us all.

Please feel free to publish this article if you see fit, but withhold my name for privacy reasons. I hope this gives you some material, so you can have a well-deserved break from the excellent writing. Thank you.

Ernie Segundo



P.S. Attached is a photo of me along with my 4-month old daughter bidding on the 1817/3 bust half last night (and eating a nice piece of salmon). I plan to give it to her when she's old enough to understand, but as you can see, she's quite into it already!



Eric Newman <[REDACTED]>

Searching for your book on coin scales/counterfeit detectors

4 messages

Segundo <[REDACTED]>
Reply-To: Segundo <[REDACTED]>
To: "[REDACTED]" <[REDACTED]>

Mon, Apr 14, 2014 at 2:17 PM

Dear Mr. Newman,

We spoke briefly last summer when I was inquiring regarding purchasing a copy of your book with Mr. Mallis, *U.S. Coin Scales and Counterfeit Coin Detectors*. Since that time, I have still been unable to procure a copy. I am a new member of the International Society of Antique Scale Collectors (ISASC), which is having its annual convention in Tampa Bay next month, where I reside. I know from reading past issues of *Equilibrium* that you have been very generous with your articles to them.

Last fall I purchased several scales out of the John J. Ford collection, and though I ascribe to the notion of buy the book before the item, I forged ahead in the opposite order. One of the scales I purchased was a circa 1850 Meyers & Co. rocker listed as N-M III-2-14. Though I've collected scales for some time, I've only fairly recently decided to focus on coin scales and discovered your useful reference. Accordingly, it would seem that your book would be very important to further my studies.

As an aside, I indirectly supported your numismatic education foundation last fall by purchasing an 1817/3 bust half from the Heritage auction. You can see the attached picture with my young daughter bidding on the coin, as well as the attached letter I sent to Doug Winter regarding the purchase. He published it on his website as follows:

<http://raregoldcoins.com/market-blog/a-letter-from-a-collector-regarding-the-newman-sale>

In any event, I wanted to offer a \$100 donation to your foundation in exchange for a copy of your book, which you indicated you still had some remaining copies. It would be very helpful if you could send it to arrive before mid-May, when the ISASC conference occurs, so that I may be better versed for the show and tell. Please let me know your decision, and I shall forward a check immediately as per your instructions. Thank you in advance for your kind consideration of my request.

Ernie Segundo
2219 Pasadena Place South
Gulfport, FL 33707
[REDACTED]

2 attachments

BuyingBustHalf1817over3Nov2013.JPG
3715K



CoinsDougWinterLtrNov13.doc
32K

Fri, May 2, 2014 at 1:30 PM

To: Segundo <[REDACTED]>

Thank you for your interest in our scale book. At the present time we are selling certain of our numismatic items for charitable purposes and if you choose to purchase a new copy of our scale book, we will send it to you on receipt of payment.

Eric P. Newman
Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society

From: Segundo

Sent: Monday, April 14, 2014 2:17 PM

To: [REDACTED]

[Quoted text hidden]

Fri, May 2, 2014 at 1:31 PM

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

Our address is:
Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society
P.O. Box 50376
St. Louis, MO 63105

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, May 02, 2014 1:30 PM

To: Segundo

Thank you for your interest in our scale book. At the present time we are selling certain of our numismatic items for charitable purposes and if you choose to purchase a new copy of our scale book, we will send it to you on receipt of payment.

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Sent: Monday, April 14, 2014 2:17 PM
To: [REDACTED]

[Quoted text hidden]



Eric Newman <[REDACTED]>

Searching for your book on coin scales/counterfeit detectors

4 messages

Segundo <[REDACTED]>

Mon, Apr 14, 2014 at 3:17 PM

Reply-To: Segundo <[REDACTED]>

To: "[REDACTED]" <[REDACTED]>

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Ernie Segundo
2219 Pasadena Place South
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[REDACTED]

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Eric P. Newman
Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society

From: Segundo
Sent: Monday, April 14, 2014 2:17 PM
To: [REDACTED]

[Quoted text hidden]



Eric Newman <[REDACTED]>

Fw: Potential CCD Discovery Piece, Hatcher's Patent 9661

3 messages

Segundo <[REDACTED]>
Reply-To: Segundo <[REDACTED]>
To: "[REDACTED]" <[REDACTED]>

Wed, May 13, 2015 at 11:30 AM

Mr. Newman, I spoke to Evelyn today and she said I should resend this message as you had not received it. I would appreciate a quick response as possible as I'm leaving for the ISASC conference in Omaha tomorrow. My presentation is this Saturday. Please see below. Thank you very much.

Ernie Segundo

ps. I'm sending this with and without photos attached, so please check your spam if this message does not have photos.

On Tuesday, May 5, 2015 3:04 PM, Segundo <[REDACTED]> wrote:
Mr. Newman,

I spoke to your son Andy last week, and he recommended contacting you by email. As time is short, I'll cut to the chase: I believe I've discovered an American CCD and associated patent that predates the listings in your book with the late George Mallis. I've also searched the *Equilibrium* archives of ISASC of which I'm a member and found no mention of the patent or the CCD. I plan on writing an upcoming *Equilibrium* article as well as making a presentation of the newly discovered CCD and patent at the ISASC annual gathering at the end of next week in Omaha.

Out of respect for the exhaustive research that you and Mr. Mallis documented in your book, I wanted to ask you directly if you had ever come across this patent since your book was published in 1999. I'm attaching a few photos of the CCD as well as the patent. I'll note that I've tested it with an 1853 gold \$1, and it works perfectly. In essence, the diameter is checked by putting the coin in the holder (which I only eyeballed for fear of a jam). Then, the thickness is checked by inserting it into the slot of the spring weighing device at the other end. Finally, as a genuine coin of proper weight, the coin while resting in that same slot fully depressed the spring.

As you can see from the attached Hatcher's patent number 9661 dated April 12th, 1853, it would predate the earliest listed American CCD patent you show on page II-2-2 of your book (Robinson's number 9844 - also attached) by exactly 3 months. Interestingly, as I read the patent, it appears Hatcher is more concerned with his intellectual property on the case, calling it a "coin safe" rather than the CCD itself (see the final paragraph of the attached patent), potentially raising the question of an even earlier patent's existence. Also noteworthy is how the actual CCD so closely resembles the actual patent drawing. Of course, given the minute size of the early gold \$1's, a case would be very useful. I wonder if these were ever made for larger denomination coins?

In any event, I certainly appreciate the work you and George did in the pre-internet age, as it is readily apparent to me that the researching and actually finding these early patents, without a known patent date, is extremely difficult - my hat is off to you and George for your tremendous tome. I'm very excited to present my findings to ISASC next week, and would greatly appreciate your concurrence with my conclusion of this apparent discovery in advance of my "going public."

Of course, I would acknowledge your input. I would be happy to discuss further at your convenience. Thank you in advance for your kind consideration of assistance.

Yours,

Ernie Segundo

5 attachments



CCDHatchersSide3.jpg
168K



CCDHatchersDispensingEnd.jpg
134K



CCDHatchersSpringTester.jpg
248K

 **CCD HatchersPatent9661.pdf**
179K

 **CCD RobinsonsPatent9844.pdf**
184K

Segundo <[REDACTED]>
Reply-To: Segundo <[REDACTED]>
To: "[REDACTED]" <[REDACTED]>

Wed, May 13, 2015 at 11:31 AM

[Quoted text hidden]

To: Evelyn Newman <[REDACTED]>
Cc: "[REDACTED]" <[REDACTED]>

Wed, May 13, 2015 at 6:12 PM

bring this to Dad's attention, showing him the pictures. He may or may not want to answer. This is from the scale guy who has been calling with such urgency.

From: Segundo

Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2015 11:30 AM

To: [REDACTED]

[Quoted text hidden]

5 attachments



CCDHatchersSide3.jpg
168K



CCDHatchersDispensingEnd.jpg
134K

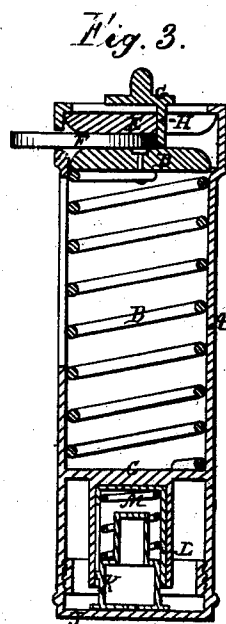
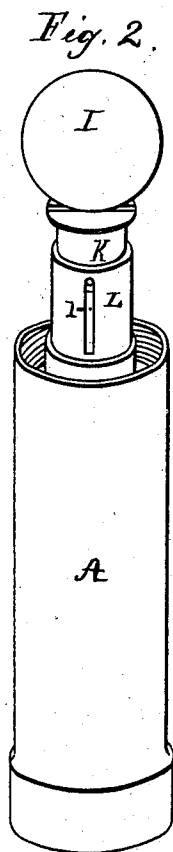
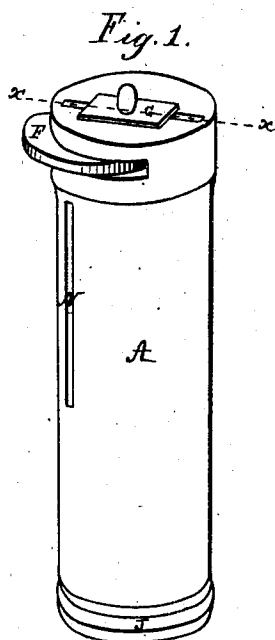


CCDHatchersSpringTester.jpg
248K

 **CCD HatchersPatent9661.pdf**
179K

 **CCD RobinsonsPatent9844.pdf**
184K

J. J. HATCHER.
COIN SAFE.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

J. J. HATCHER, OF SPRING GARDEN, PENNSYLVANIA.

COIN SAFE AND DETECTOR.

Specification of Letters Patent No. 9,661, dated April 12, 1853.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JACOB J. HATCHER, of the district of Spring Garden, county of Philadelphia, and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Apparatus for Holding and Weighing or Otherwise Testing the Genuineness of Coins; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making a part thereof, in which—

Figure 1, represents the case for containing the coins and weighing apparatus. Fig. 2, represents the same case inverted and the weighing apparatus drawn out, and a coin in place. Fig. 3, represents a vertical section taken through the red line *xx* of Fig. 1.

Similar letters in the several figures denote the same parts.

The nature of my invention consists in providing a case or chamber, in which the coins may be permanently held between a movable spring pad, and the top of the case, in such manner as that when one coin is drawn out, the next will rise in its place, and so on until all are in turn raised up to the place whence they are drawn out. And also in furnishing a coin case with a weighing or gaging apparatus, so arranged as to be slid within, and be entirely protected by, the case, when not in use, by which means it is easily kept in order, and conveniently drawn out when required for testing the coins.

To enable others skilled in the art to make and use my invention, I will proceed to describe the same with reference to the drawings.

The case or chamber A, may be made of any suitable metal and of such form and size, as may be most convenient for carrying it in the pocket, and for containing such number of pieces as may be found essential. A spiral spring B, is contained within it, one end of which rests against the division plate C, and on the other end is attached a metallic pad D, between which adjustable pad, and the top E, of the case, the coins F are placed and held. In putting the coins into the case the spring B, is contracted until the case is full, and as the coins are taken out, the expanding of the spring, brings each piece up in regular succession to the place of exit whence it may be forced out by the slide G, having a pin H extending downward from it sufficiently far to catch one piece, as represented in Fig. 3, but which

pin may be made to force out two or more, by enlarging the slot out of which they are drawn, and lengthening the pin. Instead, however of the pin and slide, a portion of the top may be cut away so as to slip out the coin by the use of the thumb and finger, or by other device essentially the same.

In the lower end of the case, I arrange a sliding weighing or gaging apparatus as follows, and which is represented in Fig. 2 as being drawn out and in the act of testing the piece I, and in Fig. 3 as being closed up and entirely within the case, where it is perfectly secure from accident of any kind, and kept in place by a cap J, screwed into the end of the case.

K is an inner cylinder, sliding within an outer one L, the two being connected by a delicate spring M, and both these cylinders, and the spring are of such size as to be readily inclosed within the main outer case A. In the top of the inner cylinder K, is a slot of just sufficient size to test the thickness (and may be so made, as also at the same time, to test the diameter, though not so here represented) of the genuine coins and the weight of the genuine coins are ascertained by the compressing of the spring M, which is indicated, through a slot in the outer cylinder L, as at 1, Fig. 2. In the outer cylinder A, there is a slot N, through which the number of coins may at any time be counted without opening the case.

There may be many modifications of this general plan, but the substance of the invention rests upon the inclosing within the cylinder an apparatus, for holding and delivering the coins with great readiness; and an apparatus for weighing or gaging or both so made as to be slid within, and entirely contained within the case which embraces all the parts.

Having thus fully described the nature of my invention, what I claim therein as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is—

A coin safe, or receptacle for coin, consisting of the arrangement of the outer case A, spring B, with its pad for holding the coin up against the top of the case, and slide G, with its projection, or their equivalents for forcing out the coin through the slot provided for the purpose substantially as described.

JACOB J. HATCHER.

Witnesses:

ROBERT F. FRY,
THOMAS HATCHER.

H. G. Robinson.

Balance Scales.

N^o 9,844.

Patented Jul. 12, 1853.

Fig. 1.

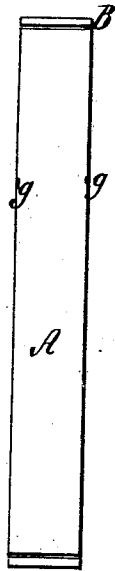


Fig. 2.

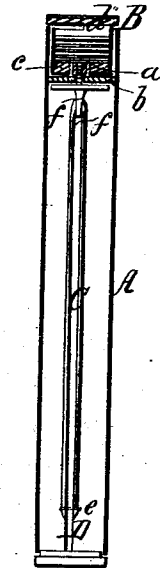


Fig. 3.



Fig. 4.

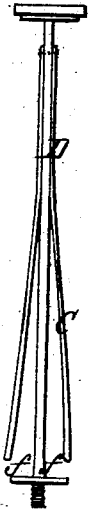
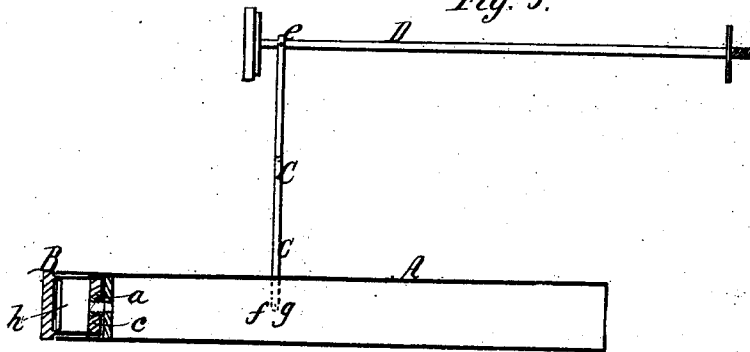


Fig. 5.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

H. G. ROBINSON, OF SCHUYLKILL HAVEN, PENNSYLVANIA.

COIN SAFE AND DETECTOR.

Specification of Letters Patent No. 9,844, dated July 12, 1853.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY G. ROBINSON, of Schuylkill Haven, in the county of Schuylkill and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Implement for Detecting Counterfeit Coin, said implement also serving as a portable receptacle for money, both coin and bank notes; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the annexed drawings, making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1, is an external view of the implement, represented as closed. Fig. 2, is a longitudinal vertical section of ditto, taken through the center. Fig. 3, is a detached perspective view of the gage and coin receptacle. Fig. 4, is a detached view of the clamps. Fig. 5, is a longitudinal vertical section of the case; the clamps being withdrawn, and applied to the case, for the purpose of weighing the coin, in the receptacle at one end of the case.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts, in each of the several figures.

The implement consists of a cylindrical case, having, at one end, a gage and receptacle box for coin, which will be hereafter described; the remaining portion of the case incloses a pair of clamps, by which the case is suspended, in order to detect a counterfeit coin by its weight. The portion of the case which incloses the clamps may also contain bank notes. The implement, therefore, may be used, not only as a detector for counterfeit coin, but may also be carried in lieu of an ordinary wallet or pocket-book.

The general construction and arrangement of the several parts of the implement constitute the invention.

A, represents a cylindrical case or tube, having, at one end, a receptacle or gage box, B; Figs. 2, 3, and 5. This box, B, is also cylindrical, and fits within the case, A, and is secured there by a screw, (a), attached to a partition (b), which screw passes into a female screw, (c), in the bottom of the box, B; Figs. 2, 3, and 5. The receptacle or gage box, B, may be sufficiently large or deep to contain several pieces of coin. At the upper or outer end of the box, B, there is a recess, (d), cut through and around just one half the circumference of the box; this recess will consequently admit

a coin to be passed through it, as large as the box will contain. The width of the recess must equal the width of a genuine coin of such a size as the box is capable of holding. The remaining portion of the case, A, incloses a pair of clamps, C. These clamps are attached, at one end, to a rod, D, by a pivot, (e). The opposite ends of the clamps are provided with points, (f), (f), see Fig. 4, the use of which will be presently shown. The rod, D, has a screw-thread cut upon it, at one end, which screw-thread passes into the center of the screw, (a), as the rod, D, is turned, and the rod and clamps are thereby secured within the case, A.

In order to detect counterfeit coin, the gage box, B, is withdrawn from the case, A. If the coin will pass snugly through the recess, (d), into the box, it must of course be of the same dimensions as a genuine coin; and, if a counterfeit, it will be lighter. The clamps, C, are then withdrawn from the case, A; and the small points, (f), (f), are inserted in fulcrum holes, (g), (g), one on each side of the case, seen in Fig. 1. These fulcrum holes are placed at certain points in the case, so that, when a genuine coin is in the box, B, and the box adjusted within the case, A, the case, A, will exactly balance or be in equilibrium, when the case is suspended at the fulcrum holes, see Fig. 5; the coin being represented by, (h). If a counterfeit coin be of the same weight as a genuine one, it will necessarily be larger, and will not pass through the recess into the box, B. Weighing, in this case, would be unnecessary.

If the receptacle or gage box, B, contains several coins, they must be all removed when a coin is to be tested by weighing; and the coin to be tested should be moistened with spittle, to cause it to adhere to the end of the box, as seen in Fig. 5. as a change of position of the coin would cause great inaccuracy in weight.

Bank notes may be wound around the rod, D, and clamps, C, within the case; and the implement will thus form a convenient receptacle for both coin and bank notes, equally as portable as the ordinary wallet or pocket-book.

I do not claim detecting counterfeit coin by means of a gage and scales, for that is well known; but,

What I claim as new, is,—

The peculiar construction of the imple-

ment, and the manner in which the several parts are arranged; by which construction and arrangement, I combine a portable receptacle for both coin and bank notes, convenient for the pocket, and a counterfeit coin detector, the implement being formed of a cylindrical case, A, having a gage box or receptacle, B, at one end; and the remaining portion of the case inclosing the clamps,

C, for the purpose as shown, and otherwise constructed, and arranged, substantially as set forth, in the body of the specification. 10

HENRY G. ROBINSON.

Witnesses:

WM. CHALMERS,

S. C. STANTON.





